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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/722,691	11/24/2003	Ronald S. Indeck	53047/44791	8307
21888	7590	01/27/2005	EXAMINER	
THOMPSON COBURN, LLP ONE US BANK PLAZA SUITE 3500 ST LOUIS, MO 63101			FLEURANTIN, JEAN B	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2162		

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/722,691	INDECK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JEAN B. FLEURANTIN	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41 and 53-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41 and 53-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/24/04</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This in response to the amendment filed on 26 November 2004, in which Group II has been elected, consisting of claims 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41, and 53-81. Claims 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41, and 53-8 are presented for examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 24 May 2004 complies with the provision of M.P.E.P. 609. It has been placed in the application file. The information referred to therein has been considered as to merits. (See attached form).

Response to Applicant' Remarks

3. Applicant's arguments, filed 26 November 2004, with respect to the restriction requirement and election of group II consisting claims 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41, and 53-81 have been fully considered. Therefore, claims 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41, and 53-81 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-19, 33-36, 40, 41, and 53-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 5,050,075 issued to Herman et al., as listed in the IDS ("hereinafter Herman").

As per claim 9, Herman discloses "a retrieval device for retrieving data from a mass storage medium including a matching circuit for comparing a determined key representative of the data sought to be retrieved with a data signal representative of a continuous stream of data read from said mass storage medium" (see col. 3, lines 31-47) and column 4, lines 40-55, "said determined key being an analog signal representative of the data itself and the data signal also being an analog signal" (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claims 10, 13 and 35, Herman further discloses "a memory connected to said retrieval device for storing said retrieved data for access by another processor" as each unit receives the data base sub channels via a multiplexer (see col. 5, lines 40-51).

As per claims 11, 36 and 81, Herman discloses "said retrieval device is directly coupled to said mass storage medium and interfacing said mass storage medium with a processor desiring said retrieved data for processing thereof" (see col. 5, lines 40-51).

As per claims 12 and 18, Herman discloses "a retrieval device for retrieving data from a mass storage medium, said retrieval device being directly coupled to said mass storage medium and interfacing said mass storage medium with a processor desiring said retrieved data for processing thereof" (see col. 5, lines 40-51), "said retrieval device comprising a matching circuit for making a pattern comparison between a determined key representative of the data sought to be retrieved with a data signal representative of a continuous stream of data read from said mass storage medium" (see col. 3, lines 31-47) and column 4, lines 40-55.

As per claims 14 and 16, Herman discloses "said matching circuit is configured to match a digital key with a digital data signal" (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claims 15 and 17, Herman further discloses "a plurality of mass storage media coupled to said matching circuit" (see col. 3, lines 31-39).

As per claim 33, the limitations of claim 33 are rejected in the analysis of claim 9, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 34, Herman discloses "a retrieval device for retrieving data from a mass storage medium including a matching circuit for framelessly comparing a determined key representative of the data sought to be retrieved with a data signal representative of a continuous stream of data read from said mass storage medium" (see col. 3, lines 31-47) and column 4, lines 40-55, "said determined key being a digital representation of the data itself and the data signal also being digital" (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claims 40, 41 79 and 80, Herman discloses "said matching circuit is configured to approximately match a digital key with a digital data signal" (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claims 54, 55, 56 and 78, Herman further discloses "a system bus in communication with the retrieval, wherein the system bus is configured to provide a search request to the retrieval device" (see col. 3, lines 31-47) and column 4, lines 40-55, and "wherein the retrieval device is further configured to process the search request to determine the key" (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claims 53 and 77, Herman discloses "a data retrieval system comprising: a mass storage medium in which data stored" (see col. 3, lines 31-59) "retrieval device in communication with the mass storage medium" as each unit receives the data base sub channels via a multiplexer (see col. 5, lines 40-51), "wherein the retrieval device is

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configured to (1) continuous stream of data read from the mass storage medium" (see col. 3, lines 31-47) and column 4, lines 40-55, and (2) "process the data stream to determined whether an approximate match exists therein with respect to a key that is representative of the data sought to be retrieved" (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claim 57, Herman further discloses "a processor in communication with the system bus, wherein the processor is configured to place a search request on the system bus for receipt by the retrieval device" (see col. 3, lines 31-47) and column 4, lines 40-55.

As per claims 58 and 73, the limitations of claims 58 and 73 are rejected in the analysis of claim 9, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claim 59, the limitations of claim 59 are rejected in the analysis of claim 34, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claims 60, 64 and 65, the limitations of claims 60, 64 and 65 are rejected in the analysis of claim 9, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As per claim 61, 62, 66 and 72, Herman further discloses "the retrieval device is further configured to determine that an approximate match exits if the correlation

coefficient has a value larger than or at least equal to a predetermined threshold value” (see col. 10, line 21 to col. 11, line 60).

As per claim 63, the limitations of claim 63 are rejected in the analysis of claim 61, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 67, the limitations of claim 67 are rejected in the analysis of claim 9, and this claim is rejected on that basis.

As per claim 68, Herman discloses “a retrieval device is further configured to determine whether an approximate match exists between the key the data stream via frameless matching” (see col. 3, lines 48-59).

As per claim 69, Herman discloses “the search request is representative of a user-specified query” (see col. 5, lines 57-60).

As per claim 70, Herman discloses “the retrieval device is further configured to determined a starting location in the mass storage medium that represents the location at which the data stream is to begin” (see col. 6, line 1-65).

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As per claim 71, Herman discloses "the retrieval device is further configured to determined an ending location in the mass storage medium that represents the location at which the data stream is to determinate" (see col. 6, lines 1-65).

As per claims 74-76, the limitations of claims 74-76 are rejected in the analysis of claim 34, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEAN B. FLEURANTIN whose telephone number is 571 – 272-4035. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:05 to 4:35.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 571 – 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jean Bolte Fleurantin

January 23, 2005


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER